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THE RIGHT TO PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

Situation in occupied Palestine

Report by the Secretary-General

1. At its fifty-seventh session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 2001/2 entitled "Situation in occupied Palestine". In paragraph 2 of resolution 2001/2, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to transmit the resolution to the Government of Israel and all other Governments, to disseminate it on the widest possible scale and to make available to the Commission on Human Rights, prior to the convening of its fifty-eighth session, all information pertaining to the implementation of the resolution by the Government of Israel.

2. In accordance with the request of the Commission, the Secretary-General on 31 May 2001 addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel and to all other Governments requesting information pertaining to the implementation of the resolution by the Government of Israel.

3. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat provided the following information on activities undertaken to implement the resolution:

(a) The Department of Public Information continued to provide press coverage of the meetings of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. Extensive press and audio-visual coverage was also provided for the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights.

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The methods used by the Department to provide this coverage included production of press releases, publications, television news packages and radio programmes, and organization of press briefings and briefings for the public;

(b) The Department continued to disseminate United Nations information materials, documents and press releases on the activities of the Special Committee and the Commission on Human Rights through the global network of United Nations information centres and services in 67 countries, the 357 depository libraries in 142 countries and electronically through the Internet. The Department also continued to make information materials available to non-governmental organizations through its resource centres in New York, Geneva and Vienna;

(c) The Department, through its information centres, provided support to the Special Committee's field mission to Egypt, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic from 18 to 31 May 2000;

(d) By letter dated 25 June 2001, the Interim Head of the Department of Public Information informed the Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (Special Committee) that the findings of the report of the Special Committee would be incorporated in a revised and updated version of the Department's publication "The United Nations and the Question of Palestine" (DPI/1481). The publication includes a chapter on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory and quotes extensively from the report;

(e) In the same letter, the Department informed the Chairman of the Special Committee that copies of the report of the Special Committee were also included in the official information kit prepared for the participants at the International Media Encounter on the question of Palestine, organized by the Department from 18 to 19 June 2001 in Paris. Furthermore, the report of the Special Committee and its findings were highlighted in presentations made by the Department at a conference at St. John's University, Minnesota, United States of America, from 20 to 21 May 2001, and at United Nations Headquarters for students of the University of Groeningen, the Netherlands, on 8 June 2001. An electronic version of the report was also distributed by the Department's Public Inquiries Unit in response to requests received from the public and educational institutions.

4. No reply from Israel had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

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